Weekly Wire
East Asia and Pacific
National Science Foundation Tokyo Regional Office
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AUSTRALIA: Online Clean Energy Map

The government has produced an online clean energy map. The map-based tool brings together the government initiatives that are helping shape the country's clean energy transformation. The map can be obtained from: http://www.cleanenergymap.gov.au/

KOREA: Next-generation Synchrotron

The Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning and Pohang University of Science and Technology will build a fourth-generation synchrotron radiation facility on 102,700 square-meter site in Pohang with KRW426 billion (US$390 million). When it is completed in 2014, South Korea will become the third country to have such an advanced facility after the U.S. and Japan.
http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130509000928

KOREA: Permanent Observer Status at Arctic Council

Korea gained permanent observer status at the Arctic Council (Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the US), securing a larger role at the increasingly-influential forum that sets the rules for development of the polar region. China and Japan also gained the status as well. As permanent observers, Korea, China and Japan will be able to participate in the Council's Working Groups that cover sustainable development, Arctic monitoring and assessment, and pollution.
http://news.mk.co.kr/newsRead.php?year=2013&no=380768

JAPAN:

Researchers at the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology reported that Fukushima-derived radiocesium was found in the deep sea of the Northwestern Pacific Ocean one month after the nuclear power plant's accident on March 11, 2011, but the amount was only 1% of the radiocesium measured on the sea surface. This means that the majority of the radiocesium was dissipated in the ocean.
Translation from a press release posted on the JAMSTEC website

JAPAN: STI Strategy

The Council for S&T Policy finalized Japan's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy. The NSF Tokyo Regional Office will soon produce a report on the strategy as a Report Memorandum.

JAPAN: Comparison of S&T Policies

The Japan Science and Technology Agency's Center for R&D Strategy (CRDS) made public a CRDS report that analyzes strengths and weaknesses of Japan's S&T fields. The report includes a table that compares R&D policies among various nations as of the end of 2012. The following is a translation of the table for Japan, US, China and Korea.

	Japan	US	China	Korea
System	Prime Minister-chaired Council for S&T Policy establishes Basic Plan under which S&T programs are promulgated.	President's Office decides basic policies and priorities, but does not practice a comprehensive plan; S&T-related government organizations establish strategies.	Under the mid- and long-term plan, GOC establishes 5-year plan, based on which GOC S&T organizations set up 5-year plan.	President's National S&T Commission (NSTC) used to be the central authority for S&T, but President Park dissolved NSTC.
Activities	S&T Basic Law (1995) New Growth Strategy (2010) 4th S&T Basic Plan (2011)	Competitiveness Initiative (2006) Competitiveness Law (2007-2010) Innovation Strategy (2009, revised in 2011)	Mid- and long-term S&T development Plan (2006-2020) 12th 5-year plan (2011-2015)	S&T Basic Law (2001) 2nd S&T Basic Plan (577 Initiative) (2008-2-12) New Growth Promotion Vision (2009)
Priority	Recovery & reconstruction from the 2011 earthquake disaster, green innovation, and life innovation	Obama Administration maintains importance on competitiveness; and additionally develops innovation policies	12th 5- year plan includes technology development for "strategically promoted industries"	Under the previous administration, the priority was shifted from seeds-oriented to needs-oriented.
Nation's S&T investment goal	4% of GDP in 2020	3% of GDP	More than 2% of GDP in 2010 More than 2.5% of GDP in 2020	5% of GDP in 2012
Nation's current R&D investment	3.36% (US$137.3 billion) of GDP (2009)	2.90% (US$401.6 billion) of GDP (2009)	1.70% (US$154.1 billion) of GDP (2009)	3.7% (US$47.2 billion) (2010)
Nation's total R&D investment by category	Basic research: 12.5% Applied: 22.3% Development: 60.5% (2009)	N/A	Basic research: 4.7% Applied: 12.6% Development: 82.7% (2009)	Basic research: 18.1% Applied: 20.0% Development: 62.0% (2009)
Government R&D investment	Yen 4.7 trillion (US$47 billion) (2012) Top down-type funding focuses on energy and life science. Unsolicited proposals in all S&E fields: Yen 61.1 billion (US$611 million) Number of researchers: flat for the past 10 years	$138.8 billion (2012) Defense: 59.8% (2010) Health: 21.5% (2010) Science: 6.5% Space: 4.6% Number of researchers: decreased since 2003 (peak), but has begun to increase	CNY258.2 billion (US$41.8 billion) Focuses on aerospace, electronics, IT, and automation Number of researchers: exceeded the US and world largest	KRW11 trillion (US$9.8 billion) (2009) IT: 33% Nanotech: 12% Environment: 9% Bio: 8% Shift IT-focused investment to bio and environment Number of researchers: increasing

NEW ZEALAND: Heavy Engineering Research

The Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment agreed to an increase in the Heavy Engineering Research levy to support innovation. The levy for heavy steel, which has not increased for the past 25 years, will double to $10 per ton from July 1, 2013. The levy increase will give the Heavy Engineering Research Association more stable funding, enabling them to carry out research that will assist the New Zealand metals industry in becoming more innovative and internationally competitive.

http://beehive.govt.nz/release/increase-heavy-engineering-research

NEW ZEALAND: Funding for International Programs

The Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment's (MBIE) International Relationships Fund (IRF) supports activities that foster international scientific contacts and research collaboration. A wide suite of bilateral IRF programs are also managed by MBIE, the Health Research Council and the Royal Society of New Zealand. The full list of these can be obtained from:
http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/international-relationships/
http://www.msi.govt.nz/get-funded/research-organisations/types-of-funding/funding-for-international-relationships/